

Appl. No. 10/726,133  
Amdt. dated August 8, 2005  
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2005

## REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 are present in the application and are amended herein.

Claims 1 to 4 have been amended to delete the reference number.

The Examiner stated that claims 1 to 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loebner US3,503,525 in view of Hanson USD261,571.

Responsive to this, claim 1 has been amended to further define the first collars and the slots. The features added to amended claim 1 are shown in the original drawing, so the applicant does not believe that any new matter has been added. With the amendment to claim 1, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner because neither Loebner nor Hanson discloses the features in amended claim 1 of the present invention. Loebner discloses a bracket 22 with multiple holes for free ends of three tubes 20A, 2DB and 20C extending therefrom. The bracket 22 of Loebner does not show any collar protruding from, the bracket, and the portion indicated and described as a "collar" by the Examiner is a free end of a tube but not a collar protruding from the bracket as described in amended claim 1 of this invention.

With regard to Hanson, the subject matter of Hanson is a tackle caddy but not a bracket for a clotheshorse as is this

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invention or a collapsible rack as is Loebner, so the technical art of Hanson is essentially different from that of this invention and the Loebner patent. Therefore, to combine the Hanson patent with the Loebner patent is not obvious to a person skilled in the art of racks or clotheshorses. Additionally, Hanson does not disclose a slot defined in a top edge of a plate and extending to a free end of a collar that protrudes from the plate.

With the arrangement of the slots in the plate and the slots extending to the free ends of the first collars of the this invention, a rack 23 can be attached to the bracket via the slots or one end of a hanging rod 25 can be inserted into and held by a collar with the resilience provided by the slot. Neither Loebner nor Hanson can achieve the foregoing function as does the slot of this invention. Thus, amended claim 1 is not obvious to a person skilled in the art by combining the Loebner and Hanson patents. Therefore, applicant believes that the rejections to claim 1 have been overcome, amended claim 1 is allowable and claims 2 to 4 dependent on the allowable amended claim 1 are also allowable.

After the amendment to the claims, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are overcome.

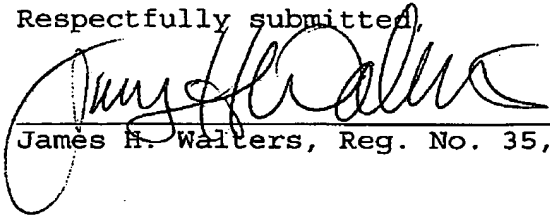
In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to

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contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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